

MAINE FACT SHEET

Meeting with FCC

June 18, 1999

WHAT THE MPUC NEEDS FROM THE FCC

⇒ Immediate Needs

- ◆ Authority to enforce current Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines (Guidelines), especially as to wireless carriers. This would allow the MPUC to:
 - Order return of unused and improperly obtained codes
 - Review code request worksheets and refuse codes to carriers who do not meet current standards
 - Perform audits
- ◆ Authority to ration codes prior to making a decision to implement a new code

⇒ Near Term

- ◆ Authority to begin thousand block pooling
- ◆ Authority to establish and enforce number utilization standards
- ◆ Authority to require carriers to participate in *ad hoc* unassigned number porting for rate centers with low utilization rates

SNAPSHOT OF THE 207 AREA CODE

- ⇒ NANPA's forecasted exhaust date: 4th quarter of 2001 (4Q2001)
- ⇒ **571** (of 792) central office codes (NXXs) assigned as of 6/1/99
 - 70% assigned to ILECs
 - 15% assigned to Wireless
 - 15% assigned to CLECs
- ⇒ **3,797,488 unused** numbers available within assigned codes, overall utilization rate of **33%**
 - 40% ILEC utilization rate
 - 33% wireless utilization rate
 - 1.6% CLEC utilization rate
- ⇒ Over **1,714** clean thousand blocks within currently-assigned codes, **622** in rate centers that will be LNP-capable by September 1999

MPUC NUMBER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

⇒ NANPA's growth projections for Maine:

	1.7 per month growth
	<u>3.3 per month new entrant growth pool</u>
Total:	5 per month/60 per year

⇒ **Total Codes Save By MPUC Since January: 114**

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⇒ **CLEC Application Process**

Since March, MPUC has certified facilities-based CLECs on an exchange basis rather than granting blanket statewide authority (which could allow a single carrier to request up to 220 initial codes at once)

- Carrier must present evidence that it will have operational facilities in rate center within 6 months
- Carrier discusses growth plans with Staff which allows for building a cooperative relationship, the sharing of relevant information, and better planning

Process has resulted in **savings of at least 75 codes**

⇒ **Staff Review of Code Requests**

Since January, NANPA has sent Staff an e-mail notification of each code request it has received

- NANPA lists the name of the carrier and the rate center(s) for which the code(s) is (are) requested.
- Staff has 5 days to respond to NANPA to indicate whether carrier is properly certified for the rate center(s) requested
- If carrier is certified but Staff has concerns regarding the request, Staff contacts carrier directly for further information
- Staff notifies NANPA of all calls and information exchanged

The review process, especially direct Staff contact with carriers, has resulted in **savings of 8 codes** because carriers voluntarily withdrew requests. Examples:

- An authorized carrier which had requested 6 additional codes in a rate center where it already had multiple codes with low utilization rates discovers that the request was for other states and mistakenly labeled for a rate center in Maine; **6 codes saved**
- An authorized carrier unfamiliar with Maine exchanges requests a duplicative code; after Staff discussion, carrier withdraws request; **1 code saved**
- An authorized carrier with several subsidiaries requests duplicate codes for same rate center; after Staff discussion, carrier withdraws request; **1 code saved**

⇒ **Staff Review of Utilization Data**

In October, the Maine Telecommunications Industry agreed to provide the MPUC with number utilization data every six months. Staff reviews the data to ensure that carriers are using codes according to Guidelines.

- Staff discovered 4 codes assigned to a carrier which had not been activated within 6 months as required by the Guidelines
- After discussion with Staff, **carrier returned all 4 codes**

⇒ **Staff Review of COCUS Forecasts**

In October and February, Staff requested that carriers provide copies of all COCUS forecasts. Staff reviewed all forecasts.

- Between October and February 6 carriers voluntarily revised their forecasts downward by **27 codes** through 2002.
- Average US carrier participation in 1999 COCUS: 60%
Maine's participation: **84%**
 - Average number of US codes represented: 64%
- Maine codes represented: **94%**